

The Moving  
finger writes,  
and having writ  
moves on

# How The Times-Dispatch Will Present Election News

**E**LECTION returns on the night of the great battle of ballots will be displayed from the offices of The Times-Dispatch in a manner more elaborate, more prompt and more informing of the real results of the day's voting than ever before. In fact, patrons of this paper will this year be given the result of the contest in a manner as complete and as prompt as the service rendered by the best metropolitan newspapers. From an army of correspondents, numbering nearly a thousand, scattered through Virginia and North Carolina, will come the returns from the two States, over which The Times-Dispatch has extended its own news service, the returns of these two States for the use of the press of this country being completed in the office of The Times-Dispatch on the night of November 3d. In addition to the Associated Press service for prompt returns from outside of the exclusive territory covered by private correspondents, the paper will have four leased wires, the chief of which will be one running from the Times Building directly into the office of a New York paper, giving to Richmond people in bulletins every minute the election returns from all parts of the United States as compiled by that paper from its correspondents throughout the country.

#### Rush News from New York.

Three other leased wires will extend into all sections, one giving exclusive returns of the fight in New York State, where the battle will probably be decided; another reaching into the debatable ground in Ohio and Indiana, where every return will be of the greatest value in determining the result. For three hours after the polls close in Richmond balloting will be continued in San Francisco and on the Western coast, there being this much

difference in time. By the use of expert calculators and adding machines, the returns will be carried westward, following the setting sun, so that by the time the polls close on the Pacific Slope the results of the fight in the East and Central States will be fairly well indicated, even if all precincts are not in. But it is in the method of displaying this news that The Times-Dispatch will exceed all former efforts of any paper in the South, and will equal in its service the best of the metropolitan newspapers. With the Capitol Square adjoining the Times Building, a natural amphitheatre is formed, in which many thousands may gather to witness the returns, for from the Bank Street windows a great moving picture machine will be operated, throwing its pictures and messages on a canvas erected in the square, where the whole population of Richmond may gather to hear the outcome of the long campaign.

#### Introduce a Telautograph.

Since the last general election many electrical improvements have been made, and these new devices are being installed in the Times Building by expert electricians in an effort in which no trouble or expense will be spared to give the people of Richmond the best, believing as The Times-Dispatch does that the best is none too good for its readers and patrons. As the star feature in displaying the returns of the election, The Times-

Dispatch has installed the wonderful telautograph machine, an electrical contrivance almost weird in its mysterious working, which, through a giant stereopticon, writes the messages directly on the canvas as they come from the wire. The assembled crowd, standing as far back in the square as the Washington Monument, may witness the great stylus, operated by an electric lever, tracing the message in the exact autograph of the sending operator. The process, so far as this end of the line is concerned, is automatic, no human hand taking part in the transcribing of the message, nor is there a moment of delay in getting the news before the public, the bulletin being readable to the throng gathered in the Capitol Square at the same moment that its meaning may be made out in the office of The Times-Dispatch, for this wonderful machine, never before shown in Richmond, transcribes by electricity the exact handwriting of the sender. The operator in New York or Chicago or San Francisco writes with a stylus on a pad in his office the returns as they come from each precinct

in his city. Instantaneously, as his hand guides the pen across the pad, the great electric lever moves forward across the canvas screen in the Richmond Capitol Square, tracing the identical message, even to the dash and signature.

#### Show Returns in Capitol Square.

At exactly the same moment the returns are thrown up in the great political centres of this country they will appear on the bulletins in Richmond, in some cases the same handwriting of telegraph operators in political headquarters being apparent on the bulletin boards of several cities in a manner truly marvelous, and so exactly transcribed as to defy any handwriting expert to deny the genuineness of the signature.

And not only will there be the cold facts and figures of the ballots. In this section of the country the polls on election day will open at 6:29 A. M. and close at sunset, two minutes before 5 o'clock. Judges and clerks, closeted at the election precincts, will hasten to count their ballots, and by 7 o'clock the returns will begin to come in. At this hour the Richmond Light Infantry Blues' Band will be stationed on a platform in the Capitol Square beneath the windows of the Times Building to cheer on the

returns, and from this time until midnight, or until the main events of the election are settled, there will not be a dull minute, for the election returns will be enlivened by music from the band, cheers for the favorites, moving pictures, pictures of the candidates, cartoons, sketches, and all manner of miscellaneous news gathered from a continent, and all having a bearing on the general election.

#### Will Compile City and State Returns.

First will come the city returns. Although some large precincts, notably First Lee, will poll 700 or 800 votes, the Electoral Board has selected judges and clerks who will be right on the job, and with only presidential and congressional votes to be counted, the hope is to get even these large precincts in by 7 o'clock. In The Times-Dispatch office experienced accountants with adding machines will stand ready

to take in the precinct returns, and a minute after the last precinct is in the public in the square will know just how Richmond stands, and many a bet as to how many votes Mr. Taft and Mr. Luce will poll will be decided.

Meanwhile, from an army of correspondents over Virginia and North Carolina, county, town and city returns will be coming in; the Western Union and Postal telegraph companies' wires, with their army of messenger boys, being pressed into service, as well as the service of the long distance telephone, to supplement the work of the special leased wires running directly into the Times Building.

With the figures of the last presidential election put in for purposes of comparison, the returns will be thrown up by a mammoth stereopticon, and before the result is known anywhere else in the two States, Richmonders gathered in the Capitol Square will know whether Mr. Bryan is as popular in the Virginias and Carolinas as he was eight years since, and whether the Republicans are making their much boasted gains, about which there has been so much discussion since the campaign reached an acute stage.

#### Handwriting on the Wall.

Then will come the real news of the election. States and cities will hasten to inform the gathered crowd by every appliance known to electrical science, of the standing of the vote. Interlocking nets of telegraph wires will be connected, long distance telephone systems throughout the East will be utilized, and especially in the doubtful States, on whose result hangs the fate of the election. No effort of brain or machinery will be spared to secure and compile returns in an accurate and informing manner, and the great moving finger of the telautograph, unerring in its aim, accurate to the shading of a letter in its returns, will, like the handwriting on the wall at the famous feast of Belshazzar, point the finger of fate at the prestige and at the doom of great political parties, shattering the hopes of some with the twirl of a pen, while to the minds of others the safety of the nation will hang on the tracing of the successful figures.

Not to take the occasion too seriously, or rather to brighten the background of a tense situation, The Times-Dispatch has engaged a staff of sketch artists for election night, and as the returns come in these artists will sketch cartoons which will be instantly, while the drawing ink is yet wet, be thrown on the canvas of the stereopticon for the amusement of the waiting multitude. Pictures of the candidates have also been secured, in all manner of occupations and positions, and The Times-Dispatch, through its correspondents at the homes of Mr. Taft and Mr. Bryan will

be able by bulletins to tell how each receives the news, and what their statements are with regard to the result in the debatable grounds.

#### New Inventions Utilized.

The returns will be in cold figures, unbiased by the political views of the correspondents. When the polls are closed, it will be too late to urge this party or that, this measure or that; the question will be one of fact, and with these facts and figures, the electrical ingenuity of this country and the brains and energy of a well organized news gathering force, allied with the greatest news services in this country, will be united to bring the result of the election quickly and accurately before the public of Richmond.

The telautograph, to be introduced into Richmond for the first time in the election returns given by The Times-Dispatch in this election, will be operated by means of a 2,000-candle power electric stereopticon. The machine, while new, is almost startling in its possibilities. Used in conjunction with the wires of the telegraph companies, it enables a business man to give a facsimile of his signature instantly in any city of the country. Perfected since the last general election, its use this year by progressive newspapers in displaying election returns will mark an era of electrical progress, while the speed with which the returns from every section of the Union are compiled and presented in concrete form, will show the progress made in telegraph service, and also demonstrate the efficiency of the allied news gathering forces of the world.

#### Results of Organization.

In the presidential election of 1904 the total popular vote cast was 13,510,708. The expectation is that the 15,000,000 mark will be reached in this election, with ballots cast in every State and Territory. Notwithstanding the fact that the polls will not close on the Pacific Coast, and in the debatable State of California, claimed by both parties, and essential to Democratic success, until three hours after sunset in Richmond, or about 8 o'clock, and that another hour or more must elapse while the precinct judges go through the tedious process of counting ballots in a State where voting machines have not been introduced, yet so certain and so rapid are the modern methods of news compilation that it is reasonably sure that in the large newspaper offices of the East the result of the presidential election will be known by midnight, and in the case of The Times-Dispatch, where a complete bulletin, stereopticon and telautograph service is maintained, the people of Richmond will be informed of the outcome as soon, and as certainly, as the news is to be had anywhere in the United States.

## TELAUTOGRAPH IN OPERATION

